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FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1909

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THE NEW COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DEDICATORY ADDRESS

THE beautiful new building which you to-day dedicate calls to my mind in contrast a plain old building at my own alma mater, in which my college work was done. The four walls of that building were as barren of architectural adornment as the cotton mills in the near-by village. And so the building had been known to many generations of students as "The Mill."

But in our minds our college building was a grist mill and not a spinning or weaving mill. Our college was not a place for spinning yarns, but for grinding away at our studies. Grinds, on each other or on our instructors, served to lighten and brighten our tasks. We considered ourselves choice wheat, which the old mill was to turn into the finest flour.

Realizing the associations which cluster in my mind around that old building, you will understand that I intend no disrespect if I liken your beautiful new building to a mill. A new mill, added to a large and prosperous manufacturing plant. A new mill to turn out a new product.

A new product, did I say? No, not a new product, but a staple article. There was a time, it is true, within the memory of men still young, when the engineering graduate was a novelty in the market—a novelty which sometimes found eager purchasers but which at other times literally went begging.

That era long ago passed away. Training men for the engineering profession in colleges is no longer an experiment. The engineering graduate is a staple product.

But even staple products are sometimes a